## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 FAA-00 OES-06 DOTE-00

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P 171446Z FEB 77 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4286

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 2278

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR, UR, US

SUBJECT: OVERFLIGHT REQUEST FOR SEAGRAM COMPANY AIRCRAFT

1. AMBASSADOR TOON RECEIVED A TELEX DATED FEBRUARY 16 FROM EDGAR M. BRONFMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, SEAGRAM COMPANY LTD., REGARDING THE FIRM'S APPLICATION TO MFA, SUBMITTED BY THE EMBASSY ON FEBRUARY 14, FOR A FLIGHT TO MOSCOW FROM PARIS ON FEBRUARY 27 WITH RETURN ON MARCH 4 IN THE SEAGRAM CORPORATE AIRCRAFT. THE BRONFMAN VISIT, WHICH HE SAYS HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN, IS AT THE INVITATION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN GVISHIANI OF THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR SECIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SCST). ACCORDING TO BRONFMAN, SEAGRAM APPLIED TO THE APPROPRIATE SOVIET AUTHORITIES FOR PERMISSION TO TRANSPORT THE SEAGRAM DELEGATION, A "SUBSTANTIAL VOLUME OF PRESENTATION AND SAMPLE MATERIAL" AND ACCOMPANYING BAGGAGE ON THE SEAGRAM AIRCRAFT; FIRST SECRETARY DOBROSELSKIY OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON INFORMED THE COMPANY FEBRUARY 16 THAT THE APPLICATION HAD BEEN REJECTED BY THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (MCA). BRONFMAN ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES TO SEEK A REVIEW OF THE DECISION BY THE APPROPRIATE SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND HOPEFULLY A FAVORABLE REPLY.

2. SINITSYN, MFA, USA DIVISION, HAS ADVISED US FEBRUARY 17 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT PROSPECTS FOR APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION ARE "DOUBTFUL" SINCE MCA IS NOT "VERY INTERESTED" IN THE FLIGHT. UPON FURTHER QUESTIONING, HE SAID THE REAL PROBLEM IS THAT ALL THE RELEVANT MCA DECISION-MAKERS ARE IN WASHINGTON FOR THE BILATERAL CIVAIR TALKS AND THOSE LEFT BEHIND ARE RELUCTANT TO ACT IN THE ABSENCE OF DEPUTY MINISTER PVALOV AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT SAMORUKHOV. SINITSYN

SUGGESTED THE BEST WAY TO PROCEED IS TO CLEAR UP THE "PROBLEM" IN WASHINGTON. SEAGRAM SHOULD CONTACT PAVLOV OR SAMORUKHOV VIA THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, PREFERABLY THROUGH AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN.

- 3. WE ARE SEEKING TO CONTACT AYKAZYAN, CHIEF OF AMERICAN DIVISION, SCST, TO INFORM HIM OF PROBLEM WITH FLIGHT AND SUGGEST THAT HE WEIGH-IN WITH MFA AND MCA.
- 4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT INFORM SEAGRAM OF OF NATURE OF PROBLEM. WE LEAVE IT TO DEPARTMENT'S DISCRETION WHETHER TO RAISE THIS WITH PAVLOV IN WASHINGTON. TOON

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